

Pesticide

info

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PESTICIDES



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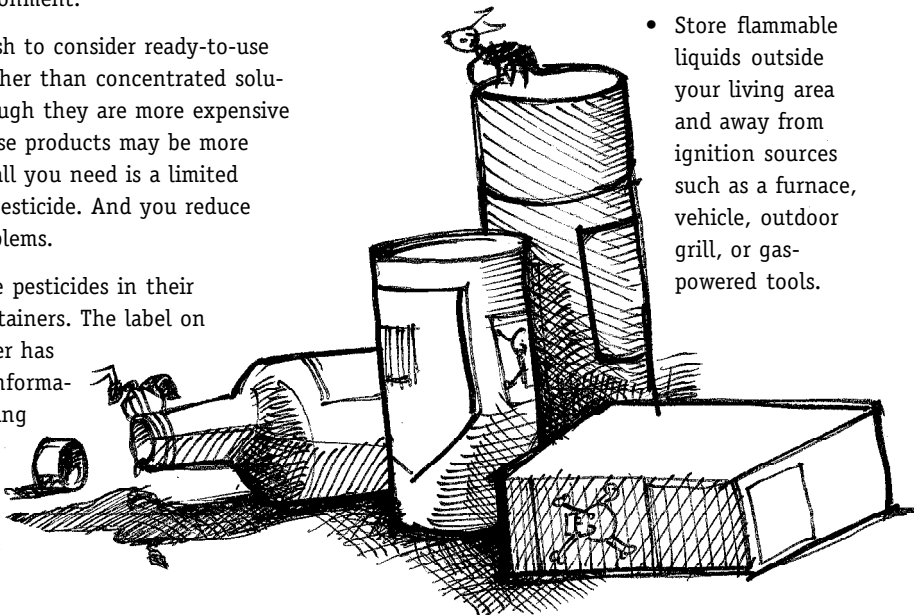
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Buy less, lock it away, and dispose with care

Safe storage

Improper pesticide storage and disposal can be hazardous to human health and the environment. You should follow these safety recommendations:

- Don't stockpile. Buy only enough pesticide to carry you through the use season. Investigate solutions to your pest problems that call for less – or no – pesticide use. Your county University Cooperative Extension office is a good source of information. Ask them about “integrated pest management.” IPM involves combining different pest control tactics – chemical, biological, and cultural – to get the best long-term results with the least disruption to the environment.
- You may wish to consider ready-to-use products rather than concentrated solutions. Although they are more expensive per use, these products may be more practical if all you need is a limited amount of pesticide. And you reduce storage problems.
- Always store pesticides in their original containers. The label on the container has important information, including ingredients, directions for use, and first aid
- in case of accidental poisoning. Never transfer pesticides to soft drink bottles or other containers. Children or others can mistake them for something to eat or drink.
- Store pesticides out of reach of children and pets. The best place is in a locked cabinet in a well-ventilated utility area or garden shed. Never store pesticides in cabinets near food, animal feed, or medical supplies. Put away pesticides immediately after each use.
- “Child-resistant” packaging does not mean child-proof. You still must store pesticides properly, out of children's reach. Be sure to close containers tightly.
- Store flammable liquids outside your living area and away from ignition sources such as a furnace, vehicle, outdoor grill, or gas-powered tools.



Do not store containers where flooding is possible or in places where they might spill or leak into wells, drains, ground water, or surface water.

- Transparent tape applied over labels help keep them legible. If you can't tell how old a container is, or identify its contents, follow the advice on safe disposal that follows.

Safe disposal

- The best way to dispose of a small amount of excess pesticide is to use it. Apply according to directions on the product label. If you cannot use it, ask your neighbors if they can. An empty pesticide container can be as hazardous as a full one because of residue inside. **Never reuse such a container.**
- If you can't finish using a pesticide, check with your local solid waste management authority, environmental health department, or county agricultural commissioner to find out whether your community has a household hazardous waste collection program for getting rid of unwanted pesticides. You can also call 1-800-CLEANUP or go to www.cleanup.org to get this information. Look for the number of your county agricultural commissioner (who enforces pesticides laws locally) in your white pages, under county government headings, or on DPR's Web site www.cdpr.ca.gov.

The label on the container has important information, including ingredients, directions for use, and first aid in case of accidental poisoning.

Never transfer pesticides to soft drink bottles or other food containers. Children or others can mistake them for something to eat or drink.

- **Never pour any leftover pesticides product down the sink, into the toilet, down a sewer or street drain or on the ground.** Do not throw unused pesticides in the trash. Call 1-800-CLEANUP to find the closest household hazardous waste collection location. Pesticides may interfere with the operation of wastewater treatment systems or pollute waterways. Many municipal systems are not equipped to remove all pesticide residues. If pesticides reach waterways, they can harm fish, plants, and other living things.
- When empty, you should rinse the container carefully **three times** and drain the rinse water back into the sprayer or the container used to mix the pesticide. Use the rinse water as a pesticide, following label directions. Replace the cap securely. Do not puncture or burn a pressurized container like an aerosol -- it could explode. Once you have followed the above procedure, dispose of the container according to label instructions. **Never reuse such a container.** Empty aerosol containers and empty pesticide containers can be thrown in the trash.